GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:138
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2017
Flights from Unused Airports
Gopal Dr. K.;Venkatesh Babu Shri T.G.

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to start flights to and from 43 unused airports in the country under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) and if so, the details thereof and the number of towns/cities which have been identified for connectivity under RCS;

(b) whether it is proposed to connect more cities under RCS and also to raise funds under Viability Gap Funding (VGF) and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of unused airstrips across the country, State/UT-wise and the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government to make these airstrips operational; and

(d) whether the Government proposes to develop the airport infrastructure across the country and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise along with the expenditure likely to be incurred on this development, State/UT-wise?

Answer

Minister of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju Pusapati)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 138, REGARDING "FLIGHTS FROM UNUSED AIRPORTS" TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.03.2017.; (a) to (d): Airports Authority of India(AAI), the implementing agency of Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) -UDAN has received 43 initial proposals from 11 bidders covering 92 airports(30 currently served airports, 12 currently under served airports and 50 currently un-served airports). The list is at Annexure-I. ; The airlines are free to select airports based on their assessment of demand and nature of supply required on particular routes and submit proposals at the time of bidding under RCS from time to time. Government of India has created Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF) to promote Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) in the country. Central Government has decided to impose a levy on scheduled flights operated within India to fund Regional Air Connectivity Fund (RCF), in the following manner: i) Rs. 7,500 with stage length upto 1,000 km. ii) Rs. 8,000 with stage length more than 1,000 km to 1,500 km and iii) Rs. 8,500 with stage length above 1,500 km. However, following flights shall be exempted from the said levy: i) Flights operated on CAT II/ CAT IIA routes as specified in Route Dispersal Guidelines issued under Rule 134 (1A). ii) Flights operated on RCS routes. iii) Flights operated with aircraft having maximum certified take off mass not exceeding 40,000 kg.; ; The indicative list of under served airports un-served airports in India, attached with the Scheme, at present, are at Annexure-IIA and IIB. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the proposal for revival of 50 un-served/ under-served airports/airstrips of the State Governments, Airports Authority of India and Civil enclaves at an estimate cost of Rs. 4500 crores, in three financial years starting from 2017-18. However, the revival of airstrips/airports is "demand driven", depending upon firm commitment from airline operators as well as from the State Government for providing various concessions as Airports will be developed without insisting on financial viability.